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RUEHROV/AMEMBASSY VATICAN PRIORITY 0787
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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR DRL/MLGA LYNN SICADE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/11/2018

TAGS: PREL PHUM IT

SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: ITALY REGRETS U.S.
DISENGAGEMENT

REF: 61034

Classified By: A/DepPolCouns Gabriel Escobar, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff met June 9 with MFA Human Rights Office Director Laura Carpinini to deliver reftel demarche on the USG's deepening disappointment with the UN Human Rights Council and the decision to withdraw as an observer from the Council. Carpinini said Italy shared our concerns about the effectiveness of the UNHRC, but worried that U.S. disengagement would only exacerbate the problem. She inquired about whether this meant that the USG presence in Geneva would be reduced and whether we would continue to seek opportunities to advance human rights in other multilateral fora. Poloff assured Carpinini that the U.S. commitment to human rights was unwavering, and that we would be especially interested in collaboration with Italy and the rest of the EU in the UN General Assembly's Third Committee.

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